

7 March 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

Diploma and Degree Students Overcome Financial Hardship and Family Difficulties with Support from SMEF

1. At 14, Siti Fatimah Shapiee had to miss school for several months while she underwent treatment in the hospital after being diagnosed with leukaemia. After getting better, she went on to pursue a nursing course in ITE College East. However, her body did not respond well to medication and soon after, she had to take a one-year medical leave from work to go through a stem cell transplant. Despite her health battle, Fatimah aspires to give back to society by being a registered nurse. Now 21, she is completing her first year diploma course in nursing at Nanyang Polytechnic, while being an active member of two of her school's student clubs.
2. With a passion to study medicine, Ayesha Saadiqah Habeeb Mohamed, 20, was not deterred when she could not secure a place at local universities after completing her GCE A-Level. Considering the various options overseas, she decided to pursue a Bachelor in Medicine and Bachelor in Surgery (MBBS) degree at University of Malaya in Malaysia as her best option with the least financial impact on her family.
3. Fatimah and Ayesha are among 22 students who will be receiving the Singapore Muslim Education Fund (SMEF) Bursary during a disbursement ceremony on **Saturday 9 March 2019 at 11.00 am at AMP Auditorium (Level 4, 1 Pasir Ris Drive 4)**. A total of \$72,200, which is the highest amount since SMEF's inception in 2013, will be disbursed at the ceremony.
4. "We believe that our students' educational aspirations should not be impeded by their financial setbacks or circumstances. As a ground-up initiative, we are encouraged by the growing number of students we are able to support through continuous support from our donors and partners over the years," says Dr Ameen Talib, Chairman of the SMEF Management Committee.

5. The ceremony, which will be graced by Mr Bahren Shaari, Chief Executive of Bank of Singapore, as Guest of Honour, will see 10 medical students, six law students and six diploma students receiving awards and scholarships from SMEF.
6. The medical students will be awarded the SMEF Medicine Scholarship worth \$5,000 each, while the law students will be awarded the SMEF-Professor Ahmad Ibrahim Scholarship worth \$3,000 each. The diploma students will receive \$700 each under the SMEF-Lieutenant Adnan Award.
7. The Singapore Muslim Education Fund (SMEF) was established by a group of community activists, who saw the need to address the under-representation of Malay/Muslims in the Law and Medicine fields. Launched in 2013 with AMP as the custodian of the Fund, SMEF aims to provide financial assistance to relieve the financial load of students pursuing legal and medical studies overseas through the SMEF-Professor Ahmad Ibrahim and SMEF Medicine Scholarships respectively. It also aims to create awareness of the importance of pursuing these degree programmes to uplift the community by providing education advisory and coaching to the students and their parents on various university options available. At the same time, SMEF also recognises the efforts of students who may struggle financially and face multiple challenges in their lives yet rise above the adversities to pursue an education or those who show outstanding leadership qualities in a uniformed group CCA through the SMEF-Lieutenant Adnan Award.

END

SMEF DISBURSEMENT CEREMONY 2019

Saturday 9 March 2019

AMP Auditorium

Programme

11.00 am	Registration
11.15 am	Arrival of Guest of Honour <i>Mr Bahren Shaari</i> <i>Chief Executive, Bank of Singapore</i>
11.20 am	Opening Address <i>Dr Ameen Talib</i> <i>Chairman, SMEF Management Committee</i>
11.30 am	Presentation of SMEF Medicine Scholarship
11.40 am	Presentation of SMEF-Professor Ahmad Ibrahim Scholarship
11.45 am	Presentation of SMEF-Lieutenant Adnan Award
11.55 am	Photo Taking Session
12.00 pm	Reception
12.30 pm	End